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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

November 27, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Cuba

Attached is a transcript of a report alleged to have been received by CBS on Saturday from their stringer in Havana, Allen Oxley.

This was the basis of a highly sanitized newscast by CBS at 6:45 p.m. on Saturday, November 24, but the details of the attached report were omitted on the grounds that publication might further complicate the negotiations at the UN.

Bob Lovett passes this along because Oxley is also the stringer for TIME Magazine, and because the information in the report seems unusually detailed.

MF
Michael V. Forrestal

cc: Mr. Ray Cline

Excerpt from a report dated November 24, 1962, from CBS stringer in Havana. Dictated by R. A. Lovett over telephone on November 27, 1962.

"While the Russian break-neck build up of medium and long range missiles was kept secret, the presence of the short range was not. (Lovett suspects that the reference is to the SA missiles.) The usual security measures were taken during their installation, but a photograph of one of the rockets was later published in a Cuban magazine.

"Information received from Marielle in Bahia Onda, and two ports in Pina del Rio, reveals that at least 88 medium and long range missiles were unloaded there from Russian ships: 36 in the month of September, and 52 in October. In addition, a large number of short range rockets arrived. At these two ports Soviet ships delivered 4 missiles on October 12th, 16 on October 13th, 16 on October 16th, 4 on the 19th and on October 24. After slipping by the picket ships on line of American ships a few hours before the blockade went into effect, 3 Russian ships docked with the last 12 missiles and rocket fueling vehicles. Two of these ships also carried short range rockets. One of them unloaded 36. It is not known how many missiles arrived at other Cuban ports. The 52-foot medium range missile with an estimated range of 1200 miles could hurl a megaton as far as Washington. The larger 2500-mile missile could strike any U.S. city with a nuclear blast equal to megatons. There are unconfirmed reports of missiles remaining in Cuba which have been hidden underground in concrete shelters where American reconnaissance planes cannot detect them. The island is alive with rumors, and it is difficult to sift the facts out of the stories of a big Russian missile build up still going on. Some of these stories tell of big concrete construction in the wooded country side and underground rocket bases still being built by the Russians in the mountains. It is known that the Russian military camps have not been removed; and although several thousand Soviet technicians have left since the crisis, the size and strength of Russian military forces still left in Cuba is a question of speculation. Conservative estimates put the number somewhere between 25 and 35,000."